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In the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A socket for a connector comprising a cavity for allowing a plug to be inserted therein from a front face, a protuberance provided within the cavity, a through hole defined substantially at the center of the protuberance, for allowing a plug extremity to be inserted from an outer end thereof, ~~and~~ a connector element disposed at an inner end of the through hole, opposite thereto, and a narrow opening defined by the socket in a rear face, wherein

an opening is defined in the wall of the through hole by ~~cutting a cut~~ cut off a part of the wall, and ~~wherein when a shutter is~~ and an elastic member are inserted into the opening,

the through hole is blocked up with the shutter by an urging force of ~~an~~ the elastic member ~~while~~ and the through hole is released from a blocked state upon the insertion of the plug, and the shutter and the elastic member are insertable into the opening through the narrow opening in the rear face of the socket.

Claim 2 (Original): The socket for a connector according to Claim 1, wherein the opening is defined in the wall extending either right and left in the horizontal direction or up and down in the vertical direction.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The socket for a connector

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according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein an inclined face is formed on one end face of the shutter, and when an extremity of the inclined face is butted against the through hole, the through hole is blocked with the shutter ~~while~~ and when the inclined face is pressed by the plug extremity, the shutter is moved against the urging force of the elastic member to release the through hole from a the blocked state.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The socket for a connector according to Claim 3, wherein a groove or a step is defined at the portion where the inclined extremity of the shutter is butted against the inner face of the through hole, causing the inclined extremity of the shutter to make ingress in the groove or be butted against the step.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A socket for a connector comprising a cavity for allowing a plug to be inserted therein from a front face, a protuberance provided within the cavity, a through hole defined substantially at the center of the protuberance, for allowing a plug extremity to be inserted from an outer end thereof, ~~and~~ a connector element disposed at an inner end of the through hole, opposite thereto, and a narrow opening defined by the socket in a rear face, wherein

an opening is defined in the wall of the through hole by

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~~cutting a cut~~ off a part of the wall disposed opposite to the ~~other~~ outer end of the through hole and a pair of shutters and a pair of elastic members are inserted into the opening, and wherein ~~when a pair of shutters are inserted into the opening,~~

one end of each of the respective shutters is urged by the elastic members while the other end of each of the respective shutters ~~are~~ is brought into contact with each other to block up the through hole and the through hole is released from a blocked state upon the insertion of the plug, and

the pair of shutters and the pair of elastic members are insertable into the opening through the narrow opening in the rear face of the socket.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The socket for a connector according to Claim 5, wherein

the opening is defined in the walls of the through hole by ~~cutting a cut~~ off a part of the walls disposed opposite ~~at an~~ to the inner end of the through hole in the vertical direction, ~~wherein~~ and

when the pair of shutters ~~are~~ is inserted into the opening, one end of each of the respective shutters ~~are~~ is urged by the elastic members while the other end of each of the respective shutters ~~are~~ is brought into contact with each other to block up the through hole and the through hole is released from a blocked

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state upon the insertion of the plug.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The socket for a connector according to Claim 5, wherein

the opening is defined in the walls of the through hole by ~~cutting a cut~~ off a part of the walls disposed opposite ~~at an~~ to ~~the~~ inner end of the through hole in the horizontal direction, ~~wherein and~~

when the pair of shutters ~~are~~ is inserted into the opening, one end of each of the respective shutters ~~are~~ is urged by the elastic members while the other end of each of the respective shutters ~~are~~ is brought into contact with each other to block up the through hole and the through hole is released from a blocked state upon the insertion of the plug.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The socket for a connector according to any of Claims 5 to 7, wherein an inclined ~~faces~~ face is formed on one end face of each of the shutters while leaving extremities of the shutters on the one end face ~~by~~ as a small part, and when the extremities of the shutters are butted against each other, the through hole is blocked up with the shutters, ~~while and~~ when the inclined faces are pressed by a the plug extremity, the shutters are moved against the urging force of the elastic ~~member~~ members to release the through hole from a the

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blocked state.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The socket for a connector according to Claim 8, wherein an inclined ~~faces~~ face is formed on one end face of each of the shutters while leaving extremities of the shutters on the one end face ~~by~~ as a small part, and a protrusion piece having elasticity is provided on the tip end of one inclined face, wherein when the extremities of the shutters are brought into contact with each other, the protrusion piece on the tip end of one inclined face is brought into contact with the other inclined face elastically to block up the through hole, and ~~while~~ when the inclined faces are pressed by a the plug extremity, the shutters are moved against the urging force of the elastic ~~member~~ members to release the through hole from a the blocked state.

Claim 10 (Previously Amended): The socket for a connector according to any of Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, wherein the plug is a plug for an optical connector and the connector element is an optical element.

Claim 11 (Previously Amended): The socket for a connector according to any of Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, wherein the plug is a plug for an electric connector and the connector element is an

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electric connector element.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method of assembling a socket for a connector comprising,

~~using~~ providing a socket having a cavity for allowing a plug to be inserted therein from a front face of a socket housing, said socket housing defining a narrow opening in the a rear face of a the socket housing for allowing a shutter or shutters and components to be inserted therein and a cover body to be fitted therein, and for causing the shutter or shutters and the components to be fixed therein, and

inserting the shutter or shutters and the components through the narrow opening, and fitting the cover body into the narrow opening to fix the shutter or shutters and the components in the socket housing.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method of assembling a socket for a connector comprising,

~~using~~ providing a socket having a cavity for allowing a plug to be inserted therein from a front face of a socket housing, said socket housing defining a narrow opening in the a rear face of a the socket housing, ~~setting components on the front face of a eover body,~~ for allowing a shutter or shutters and components to be inserted in the narrow opening and for allowing the a cover

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body to be fitted ~~on~~ in the narrow opening, ~~and~~ for causing the shutter or shutters and the components to be fixed therein, setting the components on a front face of the cover body, and inserting the components and the cover body into the narrow opening to fix the components in the socket housing.